the

KALIFORNSKI Since 1979

NEWSLETTER OF THE YUGOSLAV-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, INC.

P.O. Box 226, Watsonville, California 95077 (A NON-PROFIT, NON-RELIGIOUS, & NON-POLITICAL ORGANIZATION)

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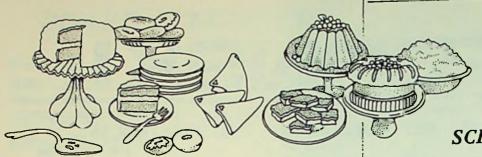
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Fairway Market in East Lake Village **Shopping Center**

Please get your donated cakes to Chairperson Mary Basich 1907 East Lake Avenue by Friday night if you can't make it Saturday morning.

Money contributions also accepted. Please make checks payable to:

YACO Scholarship Fund and sent to Chairperson Mary Basich

at the above address.

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Marich Bar-B-Q Reservation Coupon **June 11, 1989 — Stockton** \$20.00 per person

Name Address Phone # # of persons attending _____ Amount enc. \$____ I will bring the following: finger food _____ and/or dessert _

I understand my fee will be refunded in the event of cancellation.

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FEATURED MEMBER COLUMN

A Look At NAIDA NICHOLAS

as told to Chris Barlow

In Chicago, Illinois, on June 10, 1914, began a most interesting story — the story of Naida Polovina Nicholas.

Naida's father, Milan, was born in 1890 in the village of Senj. At the age of 16 Milan came to America, and eventually to Detroit working for the Ford Motor Company. In the meantime, Rose Seitz, the youngest of nine children, born in the village of Zemun in 1892, had come to America with a sister, and through mutual friends, met and married Milan. Milan went to night school learning Tool and Die making. He was very good at his craft and in 1933 Milan was sent by Ford to the USSR to assist Russians in building a Tool and Die making operation. Naida had already made up her mind that she didn't want to be stuck in the Russian boondocks with the rest of her family. At the American Embassy she mentioned that she had just graduated from the Detroit Business Institute. Did they have any need for a secretary? They in fact did; as a result she stayed two years with the U.S. Diplomatic Service as a Consular Clerk. She engaged a private tutor and became fluent in conversational Russian, making her trilingual.

Living in Moscow was a wonderful experience, especially for a nineteen year old girl. She was free to mingle. The Russian people were very interested in

Americans, and best of all was the Bolshoi.

Naida lived at the Bolshoi — ballets, operas, concerts, the Kirov Ballet from Leningrad — everything was available and she didn't miss a performance.

In addition there were the Hermitage Museum, the Palace of Catherine the Great, the Tretiakov Museum, parades in Red Square, Lenin's Tomb, and of course in winter, ice skating in Gorky Park, where they flooded the walkways and there was no limit where you could

go.

When Naida's vacation time arrived she decided she wanted to visit her grandmother and cousins in Zagreb. The last time she had visited was when she was seven years old and she was most certainly overdue for another visit. Her friends at the embassy tried to discourage her because there was a certain amount of risk involved. There were no diplomatic relations between the U.S.S.R. and the Kingdom of Jugoslavia, at that time under the rule of Peter II.

There were also stirrings in Germany that were

causing concern in diplomatic circles.

Naida, however, was not to be discouraged, so she traveled in the company of friends as far as Warsaw, and then on to Vienna where she got her visa and boarded a train crossing into Maribor. In the dark of the night she was awakened by people talking. The train was stopped. The night was pitch black, but she could understand the language! Too excited to sleep or even to sit still, she dressed and waited. Eventually a man

came to her compartment and took her passport to check it, which didn't bother her. It did bother her that a well dressed man entered her compartment, sat down and didn't say a single word to her until they were about a mile out of Maribor. Then he began an interrogation: "Where are you going? Why? How long will you be staying?" etcetera, saying that when she arrived in Zagreb she must go to the police station to answer further questions. All this because she was travelling from Russia.

Naida was not taken aback by this, countering with the suggestion that he instead escort her directly to the American Consulate in Zagreb, bypassing the police altogether. She must have made an impression, for by the time they arrived in Zagreb, he seemed smitten and was offering to show her the sights, but she explained she was there to see her grandmother and was not able to stay very long. This seemed to satisfy him and the subject of the police was not brought up again.

After her visit, Naida recalls that the train back to Warsaw was completely filled with Nazis — all the men

wore swastikas on their lapels.

In 1935 the Embassy reduced staff due to the ominous rumblings coming from Germany, and women and families were sent home. Back in America Naida did volunteer work, sold war bonds and the like, until 1942 when she and a girlfriend decided to move to California. Naida worked for Bechtel-McCone until 1945 when she married Joe Nicholas. Joe was a fisherman and a chef, and continued fishing for the first couple of years of their marriage, but quit because he was out to sea for such long periods of time. They moved to Chico to Joe's almond ranch, thinking it would be a wonderful place to raise children. Unfortunately Joe couldn't take the oppresive heat of the summers in the Sacramento Valley, so after five years they gave it up and returned south, settling in Santa Ana where Joe opened the Colony Club restaurant, while the children grew and finished school. When they retired they moved to Santa Cruz where they had friends, away from the heat and smog, and near the ocean Joe loved.

They eventually moved to Watsonville because there were more Jugoslavs. One day a friend was visiting Naida and mentioned YACO. After hearing what YACO was, Naida was immediately interested, attended that evening's meeting, joined on the spot, and has been an active member ever since, including in the formation

of, and participation in, Harmonija.



Yugoslav Radio Hour

Remember to listen to the YUGOSLAV RADIO HOUR every Sunday at 9:35 a.m. on radio station KOMY, 1340 on the dial.

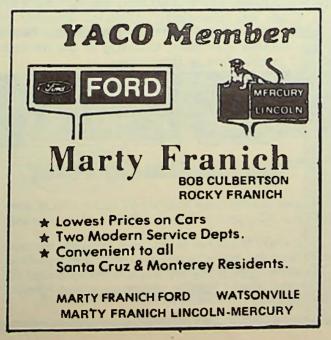
ANN & ANDY SOLDO are your hosts and bring you the finest in old favorites as well as the very latest music from Yugoslavia. They will be happy to play any special requests you might ask for whether it be for birthday, anniversary, or for any special announcement.

Potpourri BABE BRAUTOVICH HILL

Well, "the best laid plans of mice and men" all fail at one time or another. That is what happened to our "Just Desserts and Reminiscing" on April 2nd. As meetings sometimes go, discussion dominated the whole evening, but maybe next time I want to thank those of you who attended and for all your input Ann Soldo will Chair the Academic Awards this year. Thank you, Ann Please don't forget the Stew Dinner on May 7th. Call me for your reservations before April 30th Those of you who are going to the Marich (YCC) bar-b-que must fill in the coupon and send it with your check before May 10th. Only those who sign up will be going by bus...Ron and I, Shirley and Cecil, John and Jelka went to the Oak Grove bar-b-que (YCC) on the 8th and it was fun. The weather was cooler than it was here; the music was by Dunay, which was just great; the Chix/spaghetti and salad plus dessert - all for \$10.00 (not too bad) and a darn good time was had by all. See you in June, Sophia. Sophia Marich also joined YACO on that day Good Thoughts and Positive Energies go out to George Monkovich I have two things I want you to see in May: a sign John Selak made and the Proclamation that the Mayor presented to YACO.... Familiar Faces: Ann Backovich, Irene Strazicich, Lena Derpich, Nich Derpich, Naida Nicholas, Zarko Radich, Mary Basich, Stella Lucich and Catherine, John and Luce Selak, John Basor, Jo Puhera, Vera Gugale, Emme and Tony Colendich, Frank and Jacqueline Zadravec, Dragoslav and Merilyn Georgevich, Andy and Pat Gulermovich, Steve and Slavica Zalac. . . . Please call for your May 7th Stew Dinner reservations

Toodle . . . o o o

Dobro Došli: Sophia Marich Ripon, California



(from the Fresno Bee, 4/5/89)

Soke Zivanich, an aunt of state Sen. Rose Ann Vuich, celebrated her 101st birthday with a family barbecue at her Clovis area home on Sunday. "She loves to eat Almond Roca candy," said a granddaughter, Evelyn Milajivich. She added her grandmother still lives at home and does her own cooking.

A native of Yugoslavia, Baba (Grandmother) Soke was 38 years old when she moved to the United States. One of her proudest possessions is a small American flag presented to her when she became a naturalized U.S. citizen.

She had three children, one of whom still is living. She also has six grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and nine great-great-grandchildren.

And while she missed seeing the "Today" show on television, family members saw to it that she got a videotape showing Willard Scott wishing her a "Happy Birthday" on the network show seen across the nation.

(submitted by Yaka Bacina)

(provided by her son-in-law Gary Patton of Tulare)



'Family Owned Since 1939'

A SPECIAL DESSERT by Nick Miloslavich

When YACO holds a dinner, it is the result of a lot of dedicated work by a score of volunteers. Even though the work is greatly appreciated, too often not enough recognition and thanks is given to the people who put in so much hard work.

I'd like to speak here for the rest of the club and give a big "thank you!" Because without your efforts, we wouldn't have a club.

One of my favorite activities at a dinner is to survey all the wonderful desserts that people bring. I take

notice of the prikle (priganice).

At the first YACO dinner I attended about three years ago, I was thrilled to see prikle on my dessert plate. The last time I had seen prikle like that was 15 years before when my grandmother Florence (Jakobučić) Miloslavich had made some. I believe Nevenka Radich brought the prikle to that first dinner I attended. And I have enjoyed many more of her prikle she brings to dinners so often, as well as the prikle of other fine cooks.

At the February 5th free kupus dinner, Nevenka was home taking care of a sick family, but luckily for me and others, Vera Gugale brought her variety of that special dessert. She told me how she learned to make prikle.

Vera Vlaović was about 20 when her mother taught her how to make prikle. She was living in Hercegovina in the village of Mojdež. She was learning something that had been passed from mother to daughter and mother to daughter for as far back as anyone knew.

Prikle was made for special occasions by almost every family. On clebrations like Christmas, Easter, a birthday, a new baby, or a wedding, you could count

on having prikle.

When Vera was learning almost 40 years ago, she didn't have prepackaged yeast. Bread was made nearly every day, and a piece of dough about the size of a lemon was saved to keep some yeast for the next day. Warm water was stirred into the dough until the dough dissolved. Then sugar and a little salt were added to start the yeast growing. That yeast was made into new dough, and another lemon-sized ball of yeast was saved for the next day.

Sometimes neighbors would borrow a ball of dough if their own yeast failed, and returned another ball less than 2 hours later. Only once in a while did they need

to buy yeast from the baker.

Starting the yeast growing was the first part of making the prikle. Four eggs from their own chickens were cracked into a mixing bowl, and Vera would then grate the peel of an orange bought at the farmers market onto the eggs. She then squeezed the juice from the orange into the mix. About 2 cups of milk was added (water was substituted when milk wasn't available) along with the yeast, and the mixture was stirred up.

Flour was stirred in until the cook knew it was the right consistency. Measuring cups and measuring spoons were not needed. The mixtures and methods were developed long before reading and cookbooks became common. Things were learned from firsthand experience. Cooks knew from experience how hot a wood heated stove or oven was. No thermometer was needed.

They didn't always make it the same. Vera's uncle liked to have apple in it. Some liked to have raisins, and others put jelly in the middle.

The dough was left in a warm spot to rise. In about two hours when the dough was double in size, it was taken to the komin, the all-purpose outdoor kitchensmokehouse.

A pot of olive oil sat on a griddle over the fire pit. If the oil got too hot, the pot was removed for a minute or two. The dough was spooned into the hot oil. The prikle were turned over when they became golden on the bottom half and removed when done to be set on a strainer to drain off excess oil. The prikle were now done. Some people liked them sprinkled or rolled in sugar and often liked raisins mixed in.

When Vera Gugale cooks prikle today, she uses an electric frying pan. She still doesn't use measuring cups or spoons, so the following amounts are just approximations. This is how she does it:

A package of yeast is mixed into a 1/2 cup of warm water along with a tablespoon of sugar and a half teaspoon of salt to get it going.

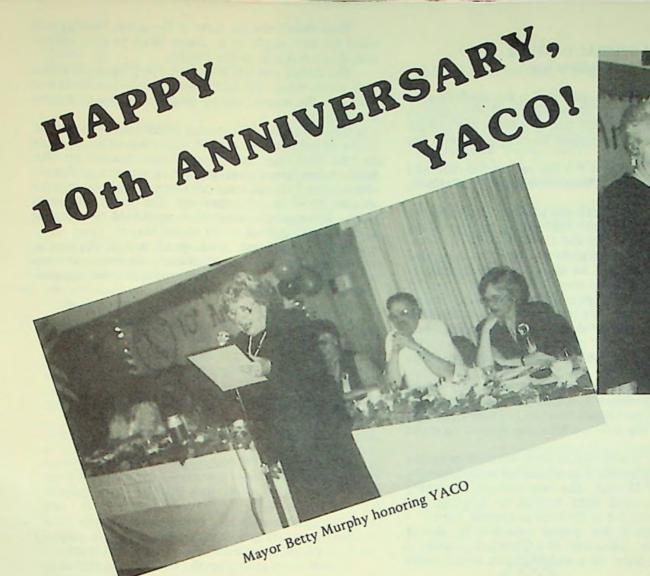
Four eggs are cracked into a bowl. An orange has its peel grated onto the eggs, and then the orange is squeezed to add its juice to the mix. Two cups of milk is added and the yeast when it is ready.

Everything is mixed together with a spoon. About 2-1/2 pounds of white flour (usually Gold Medal or Pillsbury) is mixed in until it is the right consistency, which I understand is still somewhat sticky. It is then set aside to rise until doubled.

Crisco or Wesson Oil is heated in an electric frying pan set at 350 - 400. The dough is dropped into the oil using a tablespoon. The prikle are turned when golden on the bottom and removed to drain when done.

If you have a special recipe, please contact one of our writers so we can share it with the rest of the club in future editions of the Kalifornski.







Many thanks to the Chairperson Ann Cer



Jeanne Clark and her

FROM OU

To those respon 10th Anniversar "FIRST CLASS

"Wonderful art 'Hugging' in on issues. We Xero all our 5 childs children. Cheer and Hugs, too.



Some people don't know how to say "no." So they become officers and motivators.



Decorating Committee:
10kus, Lucille Franusich,
2 and Jo Puhera



Councilman Vido Deretich and his wife Lucille were among the members there.



mom, Lucille Bechis.

READERS ====

ible for YACO's Dinner I say

John Ivelich

le on Yugoslav of your recent ed it to send to n and 9 grandto the author

- Fran Violich



Mary Burdick and Ludd



Slavica and Steve Zalac



Celtic silver coin, 2nd-1st century B C. (National Museum, Belgrade).

St Agatha depicted in a 6th-century mosaic on the soffit of the triumphal arch (Euphrasius basilica, Porec). FROM BEFORE THE ANCIENT CELTS (who founded such towns as Ptuj near Maribor) through the Illyrians and Romans to the Kings and Emperors and the changes which have taken place within recent times, the history and culture of Yugoslavia and its individual areas are the heritage of the members of YACO. Bit by bit we will share details of that heritage in the Kalifornski. If you have material available which helps reveal that heritage, please contact one of the writers so your contribution can be included.

Roman tombstone from Mokrice (Slovenia).



Members of the Austro-Hungarian Imperial family.



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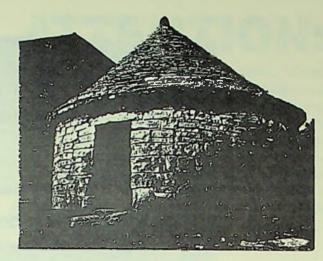
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(The name says it all)



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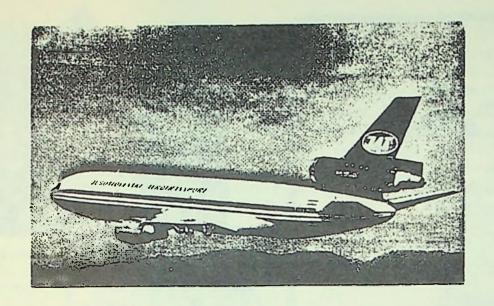
Andy and Pat Gulermovich, owners



A type of stone hut frequently seen in Istria, it is probably of Celtic or Illyrian origin.









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JOIN US TODAY

YACO was established in 1979 as a non-profit club without political or religious ties for the sole purpose of bringing together Yugoslavs and other interested persons to make known and to preserve our Slavic heritage. We are proud that among our membership we have families and individuals whose roots represent each region of present-day Yugoslavia, as well as non-slavic members who support the club's goals.

A year-around series of programs and events has proven an enjoyable way for YACO to provide its focus on Slavic heritage. Such activities include picnics, lectures and slide presentations on Yugo-slavia and its historic culture, plus potluck and sitdown dinners. We also publish a monthly newsletter, THE KALIFORNSKI, full of interesting articles, recipes, and news of our area's Yugoslav community.

Our meetings (the first Sunday of each month) may include a potluck, special dinner, films, dancing, and raffles, plus we hold an annual July barbeque.

Won't you accept our invitation to join us? We're sure you'll soon find YACO to be one of your favorite clubs.

Our dues are as follows:

Single membership				\$12
Family membership				\$18

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name:	Birth date:
Husband:	
Wife:	
Address:	
Phone number:	
Interests:	
Yugoslav Background:	
Children under 18 included in	Family Membership:

ATTENTION:

THE KALIFORNSKI is your publication. If there is anything in particular that you would like to see in any future issues, please don't hesitate to contact us. If you have any subjects relating to Yugoslav heritage or about Yugoslavs, here or abroad, that you would like to share or see published in this newsletter, please let us know. We would appreciate your input in publishing this newsletter cach month. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us:

Dale Skillicorn and Janet (Pelich) Justus-Skillicorn c/o Rapid Offset Printing 22 East Lake Avenue Watsonville, CA 95076 (408) 724-2900

SUGGESTED TOPICS:

- 1. Trips by YACO members
- 2. Visitors from the Old Country
- 3. Newspaper or magazine articles about Yugoslavia or Yugoslavs, local or abroad
- 4. Weddings, anniversaries, graduations, birth announcements, or special celebrations by YACO members
- 5. Civic or cultural contributions by Yugoslavs
- 6. Yugoslav recipes
- 7. Yugoslav songs, poetry or stories
- 8. Special family traditions for holidays, etc.
- 9. Yugoslav stories for children
- 10. Anything you think might be of interest to YACO members

NEW DEADLINE

A new DEADLINE has been set for the 10th of each month so that we might get the paper out even earlier. It seems that our members out of Watsonville are not receiving their KALIFORNSKI early enough to plan on attending any of our programs. Members in Watsonville receive their copies at least two days after mailing so it seems to be a problem with a hold up at the post office. If I don't have the information in time, I will not be able to publish it until the next issue. REMEMBER to send me any information by the 10th of eac month.

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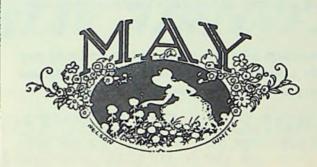
If someone you know is not receiving the KALIFORNSKI, please let us know. We publish this for you, the membership, and would like each of you to have the opportunity to keep in touch with YACO. Contact us at Rapid Offset Printing, 22 East Lake Avenue, Watsonville, CA 95076 – (408) 724-2900.

Dale Skillicom and Janet (Pelich) Justus-Skillicom

CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings take place at 7:00 p.m. at the V.F.W. Hall, 1960 Freedom Blvd., Freedom.

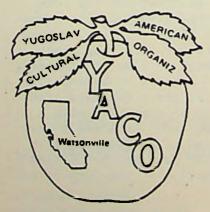
	-17
May 7	MOTHERS DAY POTLUCK (Don't forget Scholarship Bake Sale at Fairway Market also.)
June 4	ACADEMIC AWARDS plus program to be announced
July 2	YACO ANNUAL BARBEQUE Corralitos Padres Park, 11 a.m. – ?
August 6	Program to be announced
September 3	Program to be announced
October 1	Audo/Visual (Slides or movie)
November 5	ELECTIONS & Desserts
December 3	YACO CHRISTMAS PARTY 5 p.m?



YUGOSLAV-AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION, INC.

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